

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the rejections, which are traversed, of Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 as being anticipated by Frei under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), of Claims 1-3 and 5 as being anticipated by Wilson also under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), of Claims 1-3 and 6 as being anticipated by Rosen et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), of Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-11 as being anticipated by Sakamoto et al. also under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), of Claims 7, 8, 10, 11 and 19-21 as being unpatentable over Rosen et al. in view of Lowther et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and of Claims 16-18 as being unpatentable over Sakamoto et al. in view of Kato et al. also under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), is requested.

Applicants have now made clear in the claims that their invention is one in which the front stage reaction means has the capability to perform mechanical-to-chemical conversion and vice-versa. This feature is neither taught nor suggested in any of the above-referenced documents, alone or in hypothetical combination.

Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

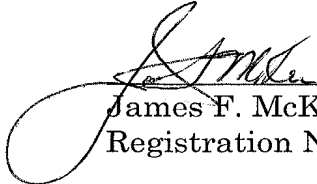
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit  
Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #381NP/49752).

Respectfully submitted,

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